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A.—(*a*) An address was presented on behalf of the District Propaganda Committee at Gooty.

(*b*) No.

Medical

Savings consequent on the appointment of honorary officers to Government hospitals.

* 606 *Q.*—Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether as a result of the appointment of honorary officers to Government hospitals there has been any saving in expenditure on the department; and

(*b*) how many paid officers in the department have been replaced by honorary officers?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Honorary medical officers are generally appointed as supernumerary to the paid staff. One assistant surgeon has been temporarily replaced by an honorary medical officer assisted by a sub-assistant surgeon. This has resulted in a small saving to Government. Further proposals for the replacement of paid medical staff by honorary staff are under consideration by Government.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" May I know from the hon. Minister if the Government have not found that this system of replacing paid men by honorary agency has been financially sound and beneficial? Cannot the Government therefore take the step of replacing paid officers by honorary staff to a larger extent? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" The system has been under trial and salaried officers are being replaced gradually by honorary men."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—" Have any senior salaried officers been made to retire in order to give place to these honorary surgeons? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" I have no other information, Sir, except what is contained in the answer."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" Is there any obstacle for the replacing of paid officers by honorary surgeons? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu:—" As I said, Sir, the question requires consideration. The services of the salaried officers cannot be dispensed with merely because there are honorary officers available to do the work. Honorary officers are appointed as supernumerary to the paid staff; and when a suitable opportunity occurs, they will replace the paid officers. One assistant surgeon has already been replaced temporarily, and there are other proposals under consideration."

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Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"From the experience that has been gained, will the hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether honorary officers are not capable of running an institution by themselves without the aid of these paid men?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"They are capable, but the question is whether the salaried officers can be replaced at once by honorary men."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Is it not a fact that the Committee appointed to go into this question has favourably recommended the system of the association of honorary officers gradually?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The report was published already and the public are aware of the recommendations."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"May I know if this assistant surgeon has been replaced by a surgeon himself or only by an assistant?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Notice."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"When honorary men are capable of running an institution by themselves without the aid of the paid men, as has been admitted by the hon. the Chief Minister, may I know whether there is any objection on the part of the Government to entirely man the institutions by honorary men?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Honorary men can run institutions of their own; they are capable of doing so. But whether they can replace paid men in State hospitals is the question under consideration now."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is not the Government anxious to retrench expenditure in that direction?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"They are."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"If that is so, why do they not accept this policy when they find that the honorary men are capable of managing the institutions?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"The Government accept the policy. When they find really capable men to replace the salaried officers, they will certainly consider the matter."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Is it the considered opinion of the hon. the Chief Minister that honorary men are not capable of running an institution with equal efficiency?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I did not go to that extent."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Then, what is the opinion of the hon. the Chief Minister?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"I have already stated it."